



Conserva CONNECTION



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Solano Irrigation District Receives the 2001 Commissioner's Water Conservation Award for the Mid-Pacific Region



Commissioner John Keys with Marion Magginis of Solano ID and Regional Director Kirk Rodgers

The Commissioner's Water Conservation Award is given once a year to individuals or entities that have demonstrated significant accomplishments in improving water use efficiency. On January 24, 2002, John Keys, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, presented Marion Maginnis, the President of the Solano Irrigation District, with the 2001 Commissioner's Water Conservation Award. The Solano Irrigation District, located in Vacaville, California, was an excellent candidate because of its track record over the

last decade as a leader in water conservation. The district promoted partnerships and pooled resources in implementing a water conservation program directed by well-qualified and innovative professionals.

Under the Solano Irrigation District's leadership, the Solano Agricultural Water Conservation Committee implemented an irrigation system evaluation program, developed a state-of-the-art web site on irrigation and weather management information, and established an irrigation scheduling dial-up hotline. In addition, the district sponsored on-going grower workshops and published a quarterly irrigation newsletter.

Presently, all of the programs and the projects from this district use up-to-date technology and are designed for ease of use by the growers. The Solano Irrigation District's programs and activities include: Evaluations of row crop drip trial on 37 acres of bell peppers, publishing four editions annually of "The Irrigator," a publication mailed to 1000 growers countywide, and many other cooperative efforts.

The Solano Irrigation District's success should be an example to all water user organizations of water conservation measures performing at their best. It is because of this exceptional water management and conservation system that the Solano Irrigation District was presented with the 2001 Commissioner's Water Conservation Award!

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**2800 Cottage Way
MP-410
Sacramento, CA
95825-1898
(916)978-5212
Fax (916)978-5290**

Articles, ideas, and suggestions are welcome, as are notices of upcoming events, meetings or activities. We reserve the right to edit material and publication is not guaranteed. Please send all material to Shani Lee at Svlee@mp.usbr.gov.



The *Spotlight* is on...



Jerry Townsend

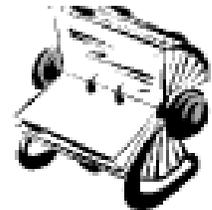
Please join us in welcoming **Jerry Townsend** to the Regional Water Conservation Team. Jerry brings a lot of enthusiasm and experience to the team.

Jerry has worked as a Water Conservation Specialist in the Klamath Basin and the South-Central California Area Offices. He has participated in the development of approximately 60 water conservation plans and has administered the Water Conservation Field Service Program (WCFSP) at the area office level since its inception. The WCFSP is an incentive-based program to encourage water conservation planning and implementation.

Jerry was born and raised in California and grew up working on a farm in the Sacramento Valley. He has a degree in Agriculture from California State University, Chico. He has worked as a Soil Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service [now the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)], and as a Range Conservationist for both the Bureaus of Land Management and Indian Affairs. Jerry also worked as a Land Operations Officer for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, managing irrigation projects on Reservations in Southern California and Western Nevada.

You can reach Jerry Townsend at (916) 978-5223 or gtownsend@mp.usbr.gov

Contact Us...



USBR WATER CONSERVATION STAFF 2002

Northern California Area Office

Dennis Perkins
(530) 934-1327; Fax (530) 934-1302
E-mail: dperkins@mp.usbr.gov

Lahontan Basin Area Office

Jim Lively
(775) 423-7802; Fax (775) 423-1056
E-mail: jlively@mp.usbr.gov

Klamath Basin Area Office

Vacant
(541) 883-6935; Fax (541) 884-9053

Central California Area Office

Pete Vonich
(916) 989-7265; Fax (916) 989-7208
E-mail: pvonich@mp.usbr.gov

South-Central California Area Office

Dave Woolley
(559) 487-5049; Fax (559) 487-5397
E-mail: dwoolley@mp.usbr.gov

Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Tracy Slavin, Team Leader
(916) 978-5214; Fax (916) 978-5290
E-mail: tslavin@mp.usbr.gov
<http://www.watershare.usbr.gov>



CVPIA Corner

Criteria for Evaluating Water Management Plans – 2002 Revision

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is revising the 1999 Criteria for Evaluating Water Management Plans (Criteria). These Criteria were developed by Reclamation in accordance with both the Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992 (CVPIA) and the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982.

The CVPIA requires Reclamation to review the Criteria periodically, "but no less than every 3 years, with the purpose of promoting the highest level of water use efficiency reasonably achievable by project contractors using best available cost-effective technology and best management practices."

In preparation for the 2002 Criteria, Reclamation asked all interested parties for their comments, suggestions, and recommendations.

Since all public comments have now been received, Reclamation will develop a draft of the Criteria. The draft Criteria will be presented in a series of workshops, giving the public an opportunity for questions and answers. After the public workshops, the Criteria will be entered in the Federal Register. Once in the Federal Register, the public is given 30 days in which to comment. If no comments are received within the 30 days, the review process will be officially completed, and the Criteria will be final. All Water Management Plans received after the final date will be reviewed consistent with the 2002 Criteria.

For additional information regarding the Criteria, please contact Bryce White, Water Conservation Specialist, at (916) 978-5208. If you are interested in a copy of the 1999 Criteria, please contact Leslie Barbre at (916) 978-5232 (TDD 978-5608).



Hot Tip...

Did you know that the Bureau of Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region's newsletter, "the Conservation Connection" has been revamped? In an effort to better suit your needs and keep you informed of the latest in water Conservation News, we have remodeled our newsletter. Please fill out and return the questionnaire inside this issue and tell us what you think. Please take the time to let us know how we are doing!



Please Join Us In Welcoming...



Leslie Barbre

Leslie Barbre is now the Region's Water Conservation Program Support Technician. Although Leslie is not new to the Mid-Pacific Region, her tasks on the Regional Water Conservation Team are all very new and exciting to her. Leslie has only been on the team for 5 months, but she has already developed a database for the water conservation grants and contracts. Her new responsibilities include overseeing contracts, utilizing her editorial skills with various documents, and performing a wide range of technical, budgetary, and administrative duties to support the Regional Team.

Prior to joining the Regional Team, Leslie was the branch secretary for the Regional Water Rights and Contracts Branch. For 5 years she served as the Branch's lifeline, because as we all know, secretaries wear many different hats and cover a wide range of functions in the workplace. Before coming to the Bureau of Reclamation, Leslie worked at both Mather and McClellan Air Force Bases where she was tasked with many financial and administrative duties.

Leslie says that joining the Regional Team has been "a learning experience." Leslie most enjoys meeting all the new and exciting people in the water conservation field with whom she feels she can turn to for the guidance and expertise needed to do her job.

When Leslie has free time, she enjoys studying genealogy and history. Her hobbies include reading, scrapbooking, and traveling to new places. Leslie has been married for eleven years to Lonnie and they have two dogs and a potbellied pig, Oliver. Although Leslie is a pretty busy woman, there is always time to cruise around in her 1968 Ford Mustang, which she credits as being one of her prized possessions.

Leslie is as happy to be on the team as we are to have her. Leslie looks forward to meeting and working with water districts and other water conservation professionals. We are pleased to have a person who brings such commitment and enthusiasm to the program.

You can reach Leslie Barbre at (916) 978-5232 or by e-mail at lbarbre@mp.usbr.gov.



Hot Tip...

Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator when you want a drink instead of running the tap until the water cools. Amount saved: 2 gallons per drink.

What Districts are Doing...

Tulelake Irrigation District Installs State of the Art Canal Lining

Written by Jerry Townsend

Over the past year, the Tulelake Irrigation District (TID) has partnered with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) in the use of an innovative canal lining material. TID, serving approximately 63,500 acres, has over 850 customers and manages over 240 miles of canal system. The TID is located in California on the Oregon border and is one of 18 districts within Reclamation's Klamath Project.

TID contacted Reclamation regarding a need for canal lining. Historically, TID has faced loss of deliverable water due to high seepage rates in unlined canals and laterals. In addition to the drought conditions here and in other irrigation districts, Reclamation initiated a program for selection and installation of low-cost, low-tech lining systems that could be 100 percent installed and maintained by the irrigation district personnel without the need for specialized installers or contractors.

On a tour of the Ochoco Irrigation District, which is northeast of Bend, the district employees from several water districts in the Klamath Project viewed ongoing installation and demonstration of geosynthetic materials. After the tour, the districts arranged for a representative from one of the material manufacturers to meet them at

Reclamation's Klamath Basin Area Office and discuss technical details of their product. The manufacturer supplied materials for the districts to use in trials. It became apparent to the TID that use of the material would be easy to install and repair at a low cost.

In cooperation with TID, Reclamation purchased 400,000 square feet of canal lining material to line approximately 2 1/3 miles of open canal. TID

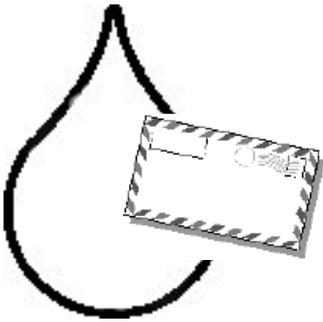


covered installation of the material as their cost share with the WCFSP. Prior to the lining project, the yearly losses were estimated at 1000 acre-feet in a 70 cubic feet per second canal.

This is the largest project within Reclamation using this new type of canal lining material called Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer (EPDM). EPDM is very similar to rubber tubing, which has 45 mils with 8 oz. geotextile backing material that is used in rocky areas.

If you have any questions concerning this project, please contact Jerry Pyle, Assistant Manager, TID at (530) 667-2249 or Jerry Townsend, Water Conservation Specialist, Reclamation at (916) 978-5223.





Conservation Talk

Q: My agricultural water district responds to requests for water delivery from customers within 24 hours. Since a customer demands water and we supply it, is that an "on demand" type delivery system?

A: No. The water conservation guide book encourages water districts to progress toward an "on demand" type delivery system. A true "on demand" system is like a city tap, notification is not required prior to turning on the water and it's always available.

Only a few agricultural districts have a true "on demand" system. It isn't practical for most agricultural districts to reach a true "on demand" system. However, the districts can improve response time by improving flexibility. Improved flexibility can shorten the time from when the water is requested to when it is delivered.

When farmers are confident water will be available when needed, they are less likely to over irrigate. Growers frequently over-irrigate to ensure enough water to last until the next time water is available.

Q: What happened to the red covered Water Management manual that could fit into your pocket and had flow measurement tables used for different measurement devices?

A: The red covered Water Management Manual was replaced by a new larger black covered Water Management Manual. You can check it out on the internet at the following web site: <http://www.usbr.gov/wrrl/fmt/wmm/index.htm>.

If you are interested in ordering a copy, the stock number is S/N 024-003-00180-5. These copies can be ordered from the Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents at (202) 512-1800, Fax (202) 512-2250, or mail P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954.

This section was created for those that have questions pertaining to water conservation practices or water use efficiency matters. If there is anything that you would like to ask our water conservation specialists please send an e-mail to svlee@mp.usbr.gov or send your questions in writing to the address on the front cover.



Hot Tip...

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is promoting water efficiency in the home by offering on-line information on saving water and reducing utility costs. Learn what you can do to reduce water use in your home! Take a virtual tour of the "Water Saver Home" developed by the California Urban Water Conservation Council in partnership with EPA. For additional information log onto:

<http://www.h2ouse.net>

Mid-Pacific Region's 2001 Regional Director's Water Conservation Awards

Congratulations to the City of Redding's Public Water Utility (PWA) and the City of Santa Barbara and the Santa Barbara County Water Agency on winning 2001 Regional Water Conservation Awards! These awards are given to entities that make the most valuable contributions to water use efficiency in the Mid-Pacific Region.

The PWA developed several programs that secured their position as a regional community leader in the field of water conservation. The PWA initiated a comprehensive water conservation program that included the development of a Home Audit Program and water conservation kit promotions. In addition, the PWA implemented several water conservation and education projects, which included school presentations, the Turtle Bay Exploration Park's School Education and Visitor's Center, and the organization of an annual water festival that united all of the Redding regional water districts and promoted program awareness.

The City of Santa Barbara and the Santa Barbara County Water Agency developed and implemented a water conservation program that was both creative and beneficial to the public. Two of the most recognized aspects of the program are 1) the Green Gardener Program, which improved water use efficiency, health, appearance, and value of landscapes, and 2) the "Splashtastic" which was a water conservation show on water supply and water conservation for children. These agencies provided water conservation brochures to the lodging industries and commercial establishments in their area with the intent of encouraging the public to use water efficiently while visiting.

On behalf of the Mid-Pacific Region, we commend these agencies for their outstanding contributions towards improved water use efficiency!



Regional Director, Kirk Rodgers presenting award to Mike Robertson of the City of Redding's Public Utility.



Regional Director, Kirk Rodgers presenting award to Robert Almy of the Santa Barbara County Water Agency.



The New WaterShare Website is Up!

Log onto the Mid-Pacific Region's new virtual Water Conservation Center, [WaterShare](http://www.watershare.usbr.gov), and you'll find technical advice for professional water managers, water wise gardens of California, and activities for students K-12 to learn more about water conservation. The remodeled website also features the Water Management Planner, which was developed to assist water contractors in

the preparation and implementation of Water Management Plans. The Water Management Planner is designed to be used by both agricultural and urban water contractors of all sizes and complexities.

From the educational perspective, the website includes various activities for use in and out of the classroom. Check out the custom-created teacher lesson plans for elementary, junior, and senior high school students or visit California's water-efficient demonstration gardens and take an interactive water conservation tour.

The Mid-Pacific Region maintains a commitment to public education on water conservation issues. With the innovative new website, you have all the essential tools at your fingertips necessary to learn more about water conservation. The website has several exciting features such as WaterLearn, which includes animated episodes to help students learn issues in nature, urban, or agricultural settings. Also included are teacher lesson plans and the WaterWise Gardens that feature over 80 water-efficient California gardens. If there is anything that you would like to see added to the website, please let us know.

Come visit us at www.watershare.usbr.gov



Calendar Of Events

<p>2002 GROWER IRRIGATION SEMINAR SERIES SPRINKLER IRRIGATION SYSTEM DESIGN April 9, 2002 Southern California Edison AgTAC, Tulare, California For more info call: (559) 278-5752 Or log onto: www.cati.csufresno.edu/cit Pre-registration is required: (800) 772-4822</p>	<p>2002 GROWER IRRIGATION SEMINAR SERIES CHEMIGATION June 11, 2002 Southern California Edison AgTAC, Tulare, California For more info call: (559) 278-5752 Or log onto: www.cati.csufresno.edu/cit Pre-registration is required: (800) 772-4822</p>
<p>ACWA SPRING CONFERENCE May 8 - 10, 2002 Monterey For more info call: (888) 666-2292</p>	<p>IRRIGATION SYSTEM EVALUATION SHORT COURSE Class 1: Theory and Lab Practice of Evaluations June 17-19, 2002 ITRC, Cal Poly State University - San Luis Obispo For more info call: (805) 756-2434 Or log onto: www.itrc.org</p>
<p>2002 GROWER IRRIGATION SEMINAR SERIES INTRO TO DRIP/MICRO IRRG. SYSTEM DESIGN MAY 14, 2002 Location: Southern California Edison AgTAC, Tulare, California For more info call: (559) 278-5752 Or log onto: www.cati.csufresno.edu/cit Pre-registration is required: (800) 772-4822</p>	<p>IRRIGATION SYSTEM EVALUATION SHORT COURSE Class 2: San Joaquin Valley Field Evaluation of Drip/Micro Systems June 19-21, 2002 San Joaquin Valley For more info call: (805) 756-2434 Or log onto: www.itrc.org</p>



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Water Conservation Center
Bureau of Reclamation, MP-410
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

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